In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:

a beam;

at least one base supporting said beam in a substantially horizontal position;

at least one seat back assembly fixedly secured to said beam;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms fixedly secured to said beam, each comprising a connector support extending forward from the beam in a substantially horizontal position; and

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms.

2. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a beam assembly, wherein said beam assembly includes the beam and at least one other beam, each of said beam and the at least one other beam having one of a first or second beam length.

3. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 2, wherein, at least one of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam lengths is joined end to end with at least one other of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam lengths.

4. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 3, wherein, the beam assembly further comprises a beam extension joined end to end with at least one of the beams, the beam extension having a custom length, said custom length less than at least one of the first and second beam lengths, so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially any length without requiring customization of the beams.

5. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 3, wherein, at least one of the beams is cut into a cut portion.

6. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 5, wherein, the first and second beam lengths are based on an optimal seat bottom width such that combinations of beams, having the first and second beam lengths, and cut portions of the beams reach a predetermined bench length without beam waste.

7. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 6, wherein, each of the combination of beams having the first and second beam lengths and the appropriate number of cut portions is trimmed such that the beam assembly reaches the predetermined length with minimized beam waste when a requested seat bottom width is not the optimal seat bottom width.

8. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 6, wherein, the beam assembly further comprises at least one other beam having a third beam length.

9. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

10. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 9, wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

11. (original) The seating assembly of claim 9, wherein, the at least one seat back assembly comprises a plurality of seat back assemblies, and wherein, at least one of

the plurality of seat back assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

12. (original) The seating assembly of claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is substantially the same width as a corresponding one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

13. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 11, wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

14. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, said at least one base is fastened in place.

15 (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, said at least one base comprises a plurality of bases and wherein, the number of bases comprising the plurality of bases is less than the number of seat bottom assemblies comprising the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

16. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, the seat back assembly comprises a single continuous back member.

17. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, the at least one base is positioned substantially beneath at least one seat bottom assembly.

18. (previously presented) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:
a beam;
at least one base supporting said beam in a substantially horizontal position;

at least one seat back assembly fixedly secured to said beam;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms each comprising a connector support extending forward in a substantially horizontal position; and

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms,

wherein, the at least one base is fixedly secured to said beam with a U shaped bracket comprising a plate fastened to the U shaped bracket such that the beam is surrounded by the bracket and plate.

19. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, said plurality of seat connection mechanisms are configured such that said plurality of seat bottom assemblies are gravity lifted.

20. (previously presented) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:

a beam;

at least one base supporting said beam in a substantially horizontal position;

at least one seat back assembly fixedly secured to said beam;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms each comprising a connector support extending forward in a substantially horizontal position; and

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms,

wherein said plurality of seat connection mechanisms are configured such that said plurality of seat bottom assemblies are gravity lifted, and

wherein each of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms comprises

a saddle bracket portion comprising an inner pivot channel;

a pin portion comprising a pin protruding therefrom; and

wherein, when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an insertion angle, the pin is insertable into and removable from the inner pivot channel, and such that when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an angle other than the insertion angle, the pin is retained in the inner pivot channel.

21. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, further comprising an end attached to either end of the beam to define a length of the seating assembly.

22. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, said plurality of seat bottom assemblies further comprise removable seat covers.

23. (original) The seating assembly of claim 1, wherein, said plurality of seat back assemblies further comprise removable back pads.

24. (previously presented) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:

a beam assembly comprising at least one beam having at least one of a first and second beam lengths;

at least one base supporting said beam assembly in a substantially horizontal position;

at least one seat back assembly fixedly secured to said beam assembly;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms secured to said beam assembly, each comprising a connector support extending forward from the beam assembly in a substantially horizontal position;

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam assembly by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms;

wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies; and

wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

25. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 24, wherein, at least one of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam lengths is joined end to end with at least one other of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam lengths.

26. (currently amended) The seating assembly of claim 25, wherein, the beam assembly further comprises a beam extension joined end to end with at least one of the beams, the beam extension having a custom length, said custom length less than at least one of the first and second beam lengths, so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially any length without requiring customization of the beams.

27. (original) The seating assembly of claim 24, wherein, the at least one seat back assembly comprises a plurality of seat back assemblies, and wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat back assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

28. (currently amended) The seating assembly of claim [[25]]27, wherein each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is substantially the same width as a corresponding one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

29. (currently amended) The seating assembly of claim [[25]]27, wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten

widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

30. (original) The seating assembly of claim 24, wherein, said at least one base is fastened in place.

31. (original) The seating assembly of claim 24, wherein, said at least one base comprises a plurality of bases and wherein, the number of bases comprising the plurality of bases is less than the number of seat bottom assemblies comprising the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

32. (currently amended) The seating assembly of claim 24, wherein, said plurality of seat connection mechanisms are configured such that said plurality of seat bottom assemblies are gravity lifted.

33. (previously presented) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:

a beam assembly comprising at least one beam having at least one of a first and second beam lengths;

at least one base supporting said beam assembly in a substantially horizontal position;

at least one seat back assembly fixedly secured to said beam assembly;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms each comprising a connector support extending forward in a substantially horizontal position; and

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam assembly by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms,

wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies,

wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies,

wherein said plurality of seat connection mechanism are configured such that said plurality of seat bottom assemblies are gravity lifted, and

wherein, each of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms comprises

a saddle bracket portion comprising an inner pivot channel;

a pin portion comprising a pin protruding therefrom; and

wherein, when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an insertion angle, the pin is insertable into and removable from the inner pivot channel, and such that when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an angle other than the insertion angle, the pin is retained in the inner pivot channel.

34. (original) The seating assembly of claim 24, further comprising an end attached to either end of the beam assembly to define a length of the seating assembly.

35 - 58. (withdrawn)

59. (currently amended) A bench style seating assembly, comprising:

a beam having a rectangular cross section of a known thickness;

at least one base comprising a first U shaped bracket, an opening of the first U shaped bracket corresponding to the thickness of said beam, and supporting said beam in a substantially horizontal position such that said beam rests within the first U shaped bracket and remains within the first U shaped bracket when subjected to a torque;

at least one seat back assembly comprising at least one second U shaped bracket, an opening of the second U shaped bracket corresponding to the thickness of said beam, positioned over said beam such that the at least one seat back assembly is

fixedly secured to said beam and the beam ~~assembly~~ remains within the opening of the at least one second U shaped bracket when subjected to a torque;

a plurality of seat connection mechanisms each comprising a connector support extending forward in a substantially horizontal position and a third U shaped bracket, an opening of the third U shaped bracket corresponding to the thickness of said beam, positioned over said beam such that the plurality of seat connection mechanisms are fixedly secured to said beam and the beam remains within the opening of the third U shaped brackets when subjected to a torque; and

a plurality of seat bottom assemblies pivotably secured to said beam by said plurality of seat connection mechanisms, each of said plurality of seat bottom assemblies being separately pivotable about an axis through the connector support of said plurality of seat connection mechanisms.

60. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 59, further comprising:

a beam assembly, wherein said beam assembly includes the beam and at least one other beam, each of said beam and the at least one other beam having one of a first or second beam length.

61. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 60, wherein, at least one of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam standard lengths is joined end to end with at least one other of the beams having at least one of the first and second beam lengths.

62. (currently amended) The seating assembly of claim 61, wherein, the beam assembly further comprises a beam extension joined end to end with at least one of the beams, the beam extension having a custom length, said custom length less than at least one of the first and second beam lengths, so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially any length without requiring customization of the beams.

63. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

64. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 63, wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

65. (original) The seating assembly of claim 63 wherein, the at least one seat back assembly comprises a plurality of seat back assemblies.

66. (original) The seating assembly of claim 65 wherein, each seat back assembly comprises a groove along an edge that is adjacent to another seat back assembly such that at least one back connector insert is positioned within the groove.

67. (original) The seating assembly of claim 65, wherein, at least one of the plurality of seat back assemblies has a width different than a width of another of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

68. (original) The seating assembly of claim 65, wherein each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is substantially the same width as a corresponding one of the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

69. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 65, wherein, the width of each of the plurality of seat back assemblies is selected from a group of less than ten widths so as to allow the seating assembly to be substantially of any length without requiring customization of widths of the plurality of seat back assemblies.

70. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, said at least one base is secured to a floor.

71. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, said at least one base comprises a plurality of bases and wherein, the number of bases comprising the plurality of bases is less than the number of seat bottom assemblies comprising the plurality of seat bottom assemblies.

72. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, the seat back assembly comprises a single continuous back member.

73. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, the at least one base is positioned substantially beneath at least one seat bottom assembly.

74. (previously presented) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, each of the first, second and third U shaped brackets are fixedly secured to said beam by a plate fastened to the U shaped bracket such that the beam is surrounded by the bracket and plate.

75. (original) The seating assembly of claim 74, wherein, said plate is fastened to the U shaped bracket with screws such that no holes are made in said beam.

76. (original) The seating assembly of claim 59, wherein, said plurality of seat connection mechanisms are configured such that said plurality of seat bottom assemblies are gravity lifted.

77. (original) The seating assembly of claim 76, wherein, each said connector support comprises:

a saddle bracket portion comprising an inner pivot channel;

a pin portion comprising a pin protruding therefrom; and

wherein, when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an insertion angle, the pin is insertable into and removable from the inner pivot channel, and such that when said pin portion is angled with respect to said saddle bracket portion at an angle other than the insertion angle, the pin is retained in the inner pivot channel.